

Existing law requires all public and private postsecondary, academic degree-granting institutions offering instruction in Louisiana to register with the Board of Regents. Specifies the information to be included in the registration. Provides that such registration does not constitute state approval or accreditation of any institution and shall not be used in any form of advertisement by any institution.

New law retains existing law.

Existing law requires the Board of Regents to adopt rules and regulations necessary for the licensure of such institutions and to establish criteria for such licensure. Prohibits operation of such an institution without licensure. Requires the board to license any institution which satisfies the criteria and to establish licensure fees and provide for collection and expenditure of such fees. Provides for denial and revocation of licensure.

New law retains existing law.

Prior law (R.S. 17:1808(J)(3)) exempted from such registration and licensure requirements institutions which are granted a tax exemption under the provisions of §501(c)(3) of the federal Internal Revenue Code.

New law removes this exemption and provides instead that any institution granted a tax exemption under the provisions of §501(c)(3) of the federal Internal Revenue Code to which the provisions of R.S. 17:1808 were not applicable prior to August 15, 1999, shall comply with the provisions of R.S. 17:1808(B), relative to registration requirements, by not later than Jan. 15, 2000. Further provides that after such compliance, the Board of Regents shall establish a time frame within which the licensure process shall be completed.

Existing law (R.S. 17:1808(J)(2)) exempts from the provisions of R.S. 17:1808(C) through (I), relative to licensure requirements, any institution whose primary purpose is to provide religious training or education, including sacred music, as to degrees awarded for the completion of religious training, theological education, or sacred music, but includes any such institution in such requirements to the extent of any nonreligious, nontheological academic degrees which it offers.

New law retains existing law and specifies that nothing in existing law shall be construed to prevent such an institution from providing secular instruction or courses.

Effective August 15, 1999.

(Amends R.S. 17:1808(J)(2) and (3))